

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Previously presented) A method for creating a logical device based on reconciliation of virtual data unit requirements and storage unit capabilities, comprising the steps of:

determining storage characteristic requirements for a virtual data unit by reading from an inventory of virtual data unit requirements;

processing the storage characteristic requirements to map said storage characteristic requirements into storage implementation methodologies using a storage methodology inventory;

identifying which storage implementation methodologies are mapped to potential subsystems or devices using management information that provides a storage unit capabilities inventory;

communicating the virtual data unit to one or more of the available potential storage subsystems; and

creating, in the storage subsystem, a logical device to map the virtual data unit, said storage characteristic requirements being maintained at a data management level instead of being maintained at a device management level.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the management information is related to attributes of the storage unit capabilities utilizing a plurality of rules.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the plurality of rules are variable.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the variable rules are an algorithm.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the management information is processed in accordance with storage element attributes and further comprises:
- deriving relationships that define a first and second boundaries; and
  - stipulating the first and second boundaries, wherein stipulated first and second boundaries includes stated relationships from derived relationships.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the relationships exist only on demand.
9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the relationships are a combination of storage subsystem relationships.
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the combination of storage subsystem relationships includes a redundant array of inexpensive disks (RAID) and a hierarchical storage management (HSM).
- 11-14. (Canceled)
- 15-16. (Withdrawn)
17. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the storage characteristic requirements comprise performance requirements, availability requirements, reliability requirements and capacity requirements.